

**Q:** What is the status of air monitoring in St John the Baptist, St James, Grant (Colfax) Parishes?

**A: DENKA AMBIENT AIR MONITORING**

Community Ambient Air Monitoring Program

- In December 2015, the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) was released.
- NATA is based on modeling and indicated that chloroprene levels were high in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- In 2016, EPA placed an air monitoring network in the community to gather information and confirm the assessment.
- In 2017, LDEQ ordered Denka to install pollution controls to reduce chloroprene emissions by 85%. ~~Denka completed installation in March 2018.~~
- EPA continued air monitoring to confirm the pollution controls reduced chloroprene in the community.
- EPA collects a sample every ~~six~~ days.
- In May 2020, LDEQ confirmed Denka reduced emissions by 85%.
- From 2016 to 2020, EPA collected over 2,500 samples to monitor the concentrations of chloroprene in the ambient air.
- EPA air monitoring network showed significant reductions of chloroprene in the community. The annual average ambient air concentrations of chloroprene near the Denka facility in 2019 (after Denka's implementation of chloroprene emission control measures) was 0.5-2.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, depending upon the location of the monitor.
- EPA projects that the annual average would be lower but for occasional elevated concentrations known as 'spikes'.
- EPA developed a new continuous air monitoring network to measure 'spikes'.
- Chloroprene data through July 16, 2020 is posted publicly at: [ HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary" \h ].

SPOD Air Monitoring Program

- In February 2020, Region 6 attended a community meeting in LaPlace and discussed plans to launch a new continuous air monitoring network, ~~often referred to as SPOD using an SPOD system, to obtain better data about~~ understand the magnitude and frequency of the occasional elevated chloroprene concentrations, or spikes, in the community.
- The new continuous monitoring system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will replace the every-six-day community monitoring network.
- In March 2020, Region 6 held a community workshop to demonstrate instruments used in the new continuous air monitoring network in LaPlace, Louisiana.
- In March 2020, EPA began installing the continuous air monitoring network at the same locations as the previous every-six-day community air monitoring stations.

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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- The ~~old-existing community~~ every-six-day air monitoring network will continue to collect samples until September 26, 2020, and then be removed.
- The continuous monitoring network will hopefully provide important additional information to help identify ways to further reduce chloroprene emissions.
- The continuous air monitoring network is expected to continue until December 2020.
- Chloroprene data will continue to be posted publicly at: [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary>" ].